

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of maturing fish within a container which comprises the steps of

(a) providing a container ~~which includes having a bottom wall,~~
a discharge pipe connected to the bottom wall at an outlet opening, and
holes in the bottom wall on opposite sides of the outlet opening for the
ingress of air,

(b) adding fish and water to said container and maturing said
fish in said container, and

(c) removing matured fish and water from said container
through said discharge pipe while supplying air ~~to~~ into said container
through said holes to prevent clogging of said discharge pipe.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4,
wherein said container is elongated.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5,
wherein the holes of said container are aligned along at least one
imaginary straight line.

7-8. (Cancel)

9. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein said container
includes side walls and respective inclined walls which extend between
said bottom wall and said side walls, said inclined walls including holes

therein, and including the step of supplying air into said container through the holes in said inclined walls.

10. (New) A method of maturing fish within a container which comprises the steps of

(a) providing a container which includes holes in a bottom wall thereof for ingress of air,

(b) adding fish and water to said container and maturing said fish in said container,

(c) inserting a discharge pipe into said container so that an inlet opening thereof is located above said bottom of said container, and

(d) removing matured fish and water from said container through said discharge pipe while supplying air into said container through said holes to prevent clogging of said discharge pipe.